

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 were pending. Claims 9 and 11-16 stand allowed, claims 1-8 and 21 were rejected, and claims 22-23 were withdrawn. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 remain pending in the subject application.

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide antecedent basis for "a portion on a side thereof directly opposite said one flexible extension member to mate with the interior wall of the bar". To the extent the objection is understood, the undersigned refers the Examiner to page 6, paragraph [028] of the subject application where it is noted that the extensions 98 are size, shaped, and configured for mating with the interior wall of the hollow trashcan bar. Taken together with Figs. 9-12, it is respectfully argued that there is proper antecedent basis for the noted claim language. Thus, removal of the objection is respectfully requested. If the Examiner still has an objection with the specification, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at the number provided below so as to more clearly explain the objection.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Antonucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,306). Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Popsys (U.S. Patent No. 5,496,141). Claims 1-3, 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwilosz (U.S. Patent No. 6,799,931). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benson (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,890). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

In response to the Amendment submitted on March 20, 2006, the Examiner notes that the claim limitation in claim 1 reciting "when the projecting member is placed within and extends through the aperture in the sidewall of the bar" does not positively mean that the projecting member is within and extending through the aperture. Claim 1 has been

amended to recite that the projecting member is adapted for operatively engaging the aperture in the sidewall of the bar such that the flexible extension member flexes as the flexible member is installed in the open end of the bar and snaps back to its original position when the projecting member is placed within and extends through the aperture in the sidewall of the bar. Thus, it is respectfully argued that the "adapted for" clause states a condition that is material to patentability. (See, MPEP 2111.04) In other words, the claim specifically covers a device that includes a projecting member that is adapted for operatively engaging the aperture in the sidewall of the bar such that the flexible extension member flexes as the flexible member is installed in the open end of the bar and snaps back to its original position when the projecting member is placed within and extends through the aperture in the sidewall of the bar. Since the cited references do not include a projecting member that is adapted for operatively engaging the aperture in the sidewall of the bar such that the flexible extension member flexes as the flexible member is installed in the open end of the bar and snaps back to its original position when the projecting member is placed within and extends through the aperture in the sidewall of the bar, the cited references do not anticipate the claim.

In regards to claim 21, claim 21 has been amended to recite that the aperture engaging member is located on the portion of the one flexible extension member extending between and within the space defined by the end cap and the portion of the body that is spaced farthest from the end. With reference to the Examiner's marked up attachment on page 12 of the Office Action, the device of Benson does not include an aperture engaging member that is located on the portion (A1) of the one flexible extension member extending between and within the space defined by the end cap and the portion of the body that is spaced farthest from the end. Thus, claim 21 is not anticipated by Benson. For at least this reason, claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

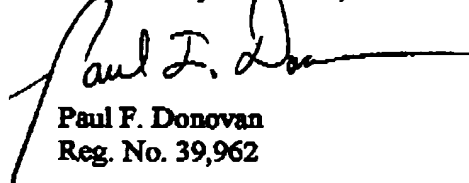
Claims 22 and 23 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed towards a nonelected species. Since claim 21 is generic, claims 22 and 23 are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

No new matter has been added by way of the remarks made herein. Allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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